

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION
UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF
PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

Washington D.C. 20231

Case Docket No. 713-093

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

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FOR: FIXING DEVICE WITH A PISTON PROPELLED BY COMPRESSED GAS

Enclosed are:

- ☒ 11 pages of specification, claims, abstract
- ☐ Declaration & Power of Attorney
- ☒ Priority Claimed
- ☒ Certified copy of French Application No. 98 00840
- ☒ 3 sheets of formal drawing
- ☐ An assignment of the invention to _____
and the assignment recordation fee
- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449
- ☒ Copies of IDS Citations
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment

Respectfully submitted,

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FIXING DEVICE WITH A PISTON PROPELLED BY COMPRESSED GAS

The invention relates to a plug fixing device with a piston propelled by compressed gas, comprising a plug guide, a cylinder in which the piston is mounted, a combustion chamber sleeve intended to close the chamber at the rear with a cylinder head and at the front with the piston and the cylinder, a probe for closing the chamber, a duct for injection of compressed gas into the chamber from a compressed gas cartridge and means for ignition intended to cause the gas contained in the combustion chamber to explode upon firing.

Upon firing, the gas explosion in the chamber induces a recoil force in reaction which tends to cause detachment of the device, and especially the plug guide, from the support material on which it is in abutment. Such detachment generally proves to be detrimental to the fixing of the plug which, instead of becoming embedded in the material, swerves or even breaks, in particular in the case where the material is hard, concrete, for example.

In order to solve this problem the document EP-0 788 863 proposes a fixing device of the type defined above in which the plug guide acts as a probe for placing in abutment and for closing the combustion chamber, and comprising mechanical isolation springs disposed between the cylinder and a plug guide support fixedly attached to the plug guide, the cylinder being able to move forwards with respect to the plug guide support against the action of the isolation springs. When the device is brought into abutment against the material the cylinder is driven forwards and compresses the springs then, upon firing and under the action of the recoil force, the cylinder recoils and releases the springs, the plug guide thus being kept in abutment against the material with the aid of the isolation springs.

A device of this type has a relatively complex structure. Moreover, when the device is brought into abutment, an operator must exert a force to compress the isolation spring.

The present invention aims to overcome these problems.

To this end the invention relates to a device for fixing a plug into a support, with a piston propelled by compressed gas, comprising a cylinder in which are mounted the piston, a combustion chamber, a combustion chamber sleeve intended to close the chamber at the rear with a cylinder head and at the front with the piston and the cylinder, a plug guide acting as a probe for placing in abutment and for closing the combustion chamber, the device being characterised in that it comprises a pushing surface and an abutment surface which are respectively fixedly attached to the plug guide and to the sleeve and are arranged to be fixedly attached together in a translational movement towards the rear when the plug guide is brought into abutment, in order to close the combustion chamber, and to become detached from each other upon recoil of the device in reaction to firing in order to ensure that the plug guide is kept in abutment against the support.

The sleeve and the probe plug guide cooperating by simple abutment without being fixed to each other in order to close the combustion chamber, the sleeve can recoil, at the time of the recoil in reaction to the explosion of the compressed gas in the combustion chamber, without driving the plug guide.

The device advantageously comprises means for rearwardly driving the sleeve, which are fixedly attached to the sleeve and to which the said front abutment surface is fixedly attached.

It is also advantageous that the driving means comprise at least one driving arm which is fixedly attached, at one of its ends, to an abutment finger provided with the said front abutment surface.

In this case the plug guide can comprise a groove for reception of the abutment finger and provided with a front wall acting as a pushing surface.

In one particular embodiment, the device comprises a housing to which the cylinder is fixedly attached and a plug guide support fixedly attached to the cylinder, in which the plug guide is mounted in a sliding manner.

In the prior art, the cylinder could move with respect to the plug guide support fixedly attached to the plug guide, whereas in the invention the cylinder is fixedly attached to the plug guide support in which the plug guide is mounted in a sliding manner, which proves to be a more simple structure to produce.

The fixing device can also comprise means for returning the driving means towards the front in order to return the plug guide towards the front into an inoperative position when it is removed from abutment.

The invention will be better understood with the aid of the following description of a particular embodiment of the fixing device of the invention with reference to the attached drawing in which:

- Figure 1 illustrates an axial cross-sectional view of the fixing device in the inoperative state;
- Figure 2 illustrates an axial cross-sectional view of the fixing device of Figure 1, in the inoperative state, in the plane of cut II-II perpendicular to the plane of cut of Figure 1;
- Figure 3 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the device of Figure 1 when placed in abutment, in the plane of cut of Figure 1;
- Figure 4 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the apparatus of Figure 3, when placed in abutment, in the plane of cut IV-IV perpendicular to the plane of cut of Figure 3 and
- Figure 5 illustrates a perspective view of the device of Figure 1 without a housing.

In a standard manner the fixing device illustrated comprises, in a housing 1, a rear cylinder head 2, a combustion chamber 3, a combustion chamber sleeve 4, a cylinder 5, a piston 6, a plug guide 8 and a plug guide support 7. All these elements of the device are on the axis 9. The piston 6, provided with a rear head, is mounted in a sliding manner in the cylinder 5 which is fixedly attached to the housing 1.

The plug guide 8, protruding out of the housing 1 at the front, is mounted in a sliding manner in the plug guide support 7 which is fixedly attached to the housing 1. The sliding of the plug guide 2 in the plug guide support 7 is limited by a bushing 42 fixedly attached to the plug guide support 7, comprising a rear part 13 mounted around the plug guide support 7 and a narrow rear part 44 surrounding the plug guide 8 at a right angle to an opening 47 provided in the plug guide support 7. The rear part 44 of the bushing 42 is mounted in a sliding manner on the plug guide 8 between a front stop 45 and a rear stop 46 of the plug guide 8 in order to limit the relative sliding thereof with respect to the plug guide support 7.

The combustion chamber sleeve 4 is mounted in a sliding manner on the cylinder 5 and comprises, at the rear, a collar 10 provided with a rear annular edge 11 and intended to be pressed around a corresponding part 12 of the cylinder head 2 until the edge 11 comes into abutment against a corresponding surface 13 of the cylinder head 2 in order to close the combustion chamber 3 at the rear. The part 12 comprises an external annular groove comprising a seal 14. The sleeve 4 is also intended to close the combustion chamber 3 at the front with the piston 6 and the cylinder 5 which, at the rear, has an external annular groove with a seal 15. The seals 14 and 15 are intended to seal between the sleeve 4 and the cylinder head 2 and between the cylinder 5 and the sleeve 4 respectively.

The head of the piston 6 has two external peripheral annular grooves with seals 6', 6" intended to seal between the cylinder 5 and the piston head 6.

The device also comprises a housing for reception of a cartridge of compressed gas, not illustrated. An injection duct connected to the compressed gas cartridge opens into the combustion chamber 3 via the cylinder head 2 for the injection of compressed gas into the chamber 3. The injection duct is not illustrated.

The cylinder head 2 has a mixing fan 16, an ignition device, not illustrated, and a switch 17 for controlling the fan 16 intended to be actuated by the rear edge 11 of the collar 10 when this collar comes into abutment against the surface 13 of the cylinder head 2.

At the front the cylinder 5 contains a shock absorber 18, fixedly attached to the cylinder 5, against which the head of the piston 6, which is propelled forwards upon firing, is intended to come into abutment.

A magazine 19 for the supply of plugs communicates with the plug guide 8 for loading plugs into the plug guide 8.

Two arms 20, 21 for driving the sleeve 4 rearwards, which are symmetrical to each other with respect to the axis 9, extend substantially along and outside the plug guide support 7 and the cylinder 5 and are fixedly attached, in this case by screwing, to the sleeve 4 at their rear ends.

The two driving arms 20, 21 are connected to each other by a connection part 22 at their front ends. An abutment finger 23 provided with an abutment surface 29 orientated towards the front is fixed, in this case by screwing with the aid of screws 41, to the connection part 22. The finger 23 extends through a hole 27 provided in the plug guide support 7 and is received in an external groove 25 provided in the plug guide 8 and parallel to the axis 9. The front wall of the groove 25, orientated towards the rear, acts as a pushing surface 30. The pushing surface 30 and the abutment surface 29 are intended to become fixedly attached to each other in rearward translational movement by abutting one against the other when the plug guide 8 is placed into abutment against a support in order to close the combustion chamber 3, and in order to become detached from each other upon recoil of the device in reaction to firing in order to ensure that the plug guide 8 is kept in abutment against the support as will be explained in more detail in the description of the operation of the device. The connection part 22 has an aperture 48 for passage of screws 41 extending parallel to the axis 9 and making it possible axially to shift the finger 23 and the assembly of the two arms 20, 21 and of the part 22 depending on the desired penetration of the plug into the support.

The plug guide 8 acts as a probe for placing in abutment and for closing the combustion chamber 3 by means of the driving arms 20, 21.

Each of the driving arms 20, 21 comprises, in the vicinity of its rear end, a pushing finger 24,

26 bent towards the cylinder 5 substantially at a right angle. The two pushing fingers 24, 26 are mounted in a sliding manner on the cylinder 5 respectively against the action of two springs 35, 36, for forwards return movement, which are in abutment at the rear against two abutment surfaces 37, 38 of the cylinder 5 and at the front against the fingers 24, 26. The springs 35, 36 are intended to return the driving arms 20, 21, and consequently the sleeve 4, to the front into an inoperative position when the device comes out of abutment as will be explained in the description of the operation of the device.

The cylinder 5 also comprises two external front stops 39, 40 for the fingers 24, 26, symmetrical to each other with respect to the axis 9 and intended to limit the forwards sliding of the arms 20, 21 with respect to the cylinder 5.

Following the structural description of the fixing device with a propelled piston, its operation will now be described.

In the inoperative position

In the inoperative position of the device (Figures 1 and 2), the driving arms 20, 21, the sleeve 4 and the plug guide 8, by means of the surfaces 29 and 30 being in abutment against each other, are returned towards the front by the springs 35, 36 and the combustion chamber 3 is opened at the rear.

Bringing the apparatus into abutment against a support 100

When the device is brought into abutment against the support 100, the plug guide 8 is driven rearwards with respect to the plug guide support 7, to the cylinder 5 and to the housing 1. The pushing surface 30 of the plug guide 8 and the abutment surface 29 fixedly attached to the driving arms 20, 21, which are in abutment one against the other, are fixedly attached in a translational movement towards the rear. Consequently, under the action of the displacement of the plug guide 8, the driving arms 20, 21 drive the sleeve 4 to the rear until the rear edge 11 of the collar 10 of the sleeve 4 comes into abutment against the surface 13 of the cylinder

head 2. When the sleeve 4 is in this position the combustion chamber 3 is closed at the rear by the cylinder head 2 and at the front by the head of the piston 6 and the cylinder 5 (Figures 3 and 4).

It is emphasized at this point that the rearwards driving of the sleeve 4 by the plug guide 8 is achieved by a simple pushing of the sleeve by the plug guide.

The driving arms 20, 21 are made to recoil against the action of return springs 35, 36 which are compressed.

During the recoil of the sleeve 4, gas is injected into the combustion chamber 3 from the compressed gas cartridge. When the collar 10 of the sleeve 4 comes into abutment against the cylinder head 2 at the rear, its edge 11 actuates the switch 17 which starts the fan 16 in order to agitate the contents of the chamber 3.

Firing

Upon firing, the ignition device causes the compressed gas contained in the combustion chamber 3 to explode, which creates pressure inside the chamber 3, under the effect of which the piston 6 is propelled forwards. A plug having been positioned in the plug guide 8, the piston 6 comes to strike the plug which is propelled forwards and is fixed in the support 100. At the end of travel, the head of the piston 6 comes to abut against the shock absorber 18.

In reaction, the firing causes a recoil force which tends to cause the device to recoil. The cylinder head-housing-cylinder-plug guide support-sleeve-driving arms assembly 2, 1, 5, 7, 4, 20, 21 recoils. On the other hand, during this recoil the abutment surface 29 of the finger 2, which is fixedly attached to the arms 20, 21, becomes detached from the pushing surface 30 of the plug guide 8 so that the plug guide 8 does not recoil and the abutment finger 23 slides to the rear in the reception groove 25. By reason of this the plug guide 8 is kept in abutment against the support 100 in spite of the recoil of the cylinder head-housing-cylinder-plug guide support-sleeve-driving arms assembly 2, 1, 5, 7, 4, 20, 21.

At the end of the travel of the piston 6, the combustion gases escape from the cylinder 5 and from the combustion chamber 3, in a known manner, by way of an exhaust valve. The piston 6 is driven towards the rear by negative pressure and returns to the inoperative position.

Moving out of abutment

When the device is moved out of abutment, the return springs 35, 36 relax and drive forwards the driving arms 20, 21, the plug guide 8 and the sleeve 4 which return to the inoperative position.

The combustion chamber 3 thus opens again at the rear.

CLAIMS

1. Device for fixing a plug in a support (100). with a piston (6) propelled by compressed gas, comprising a cylinder (5) in which the piston (6) is mounted, a combustion chamber (3), a combustion chamber sleeve (4) intended to close the chamber (3) at the rear with a cylinder head (2) and at the front with the piston (6) and the cylinder (5), a plug guide (8) acting as a probe for placing in abutment and for closing the combustion chamber (3), the device being characterised in that it comprises a pushing surface (30) and the abutment surface (29) which are respectively fixedly attached to the plug guide (8) and to the sleeve (4) and are arranged to be fixedly attached to each other in a rearward translational movement when the plug guide (8) is placed into abutment, in order to close the combustion chamber (3), and to become detached from each other upon recoil of the device in reaction to firing in order to ensure that the plug guide (8) is kept in abutment against the support (100).

2. Device according to claim 1, comprising means (20, 21) for rearwards driving of the sleeve (4), which are fixedly attached to the sleeve (4) and to which the said abutment surface (29) is fixedly attached.

3. Device according to claim 2, wherein the driving means comprise at least one driving arm (20, 21) fixedly attached, at one of its ends, to an abutment finger (23) provided with the said abutment surface (29).

4. Device according to claim 3, wherein the plug guide (8) comprises a groove (25) for receiving the abutment finger (23), provided with a front wall acting as a pushing surface (30).

5. Device according to one of claims 1 to 4, comprising a housing (1), to which the cylinder (5) is fixedly attached, and a plug guide support (7) which is fixedly attached to the cylinder (5), in which cylinder the plug guide (8) is mounted in a sliding manner. ✓

6. Fixing device according to one of claims 2 to 5, comprising means (35, 36) for returning ✓

the driving means (20, 21) towards the front.

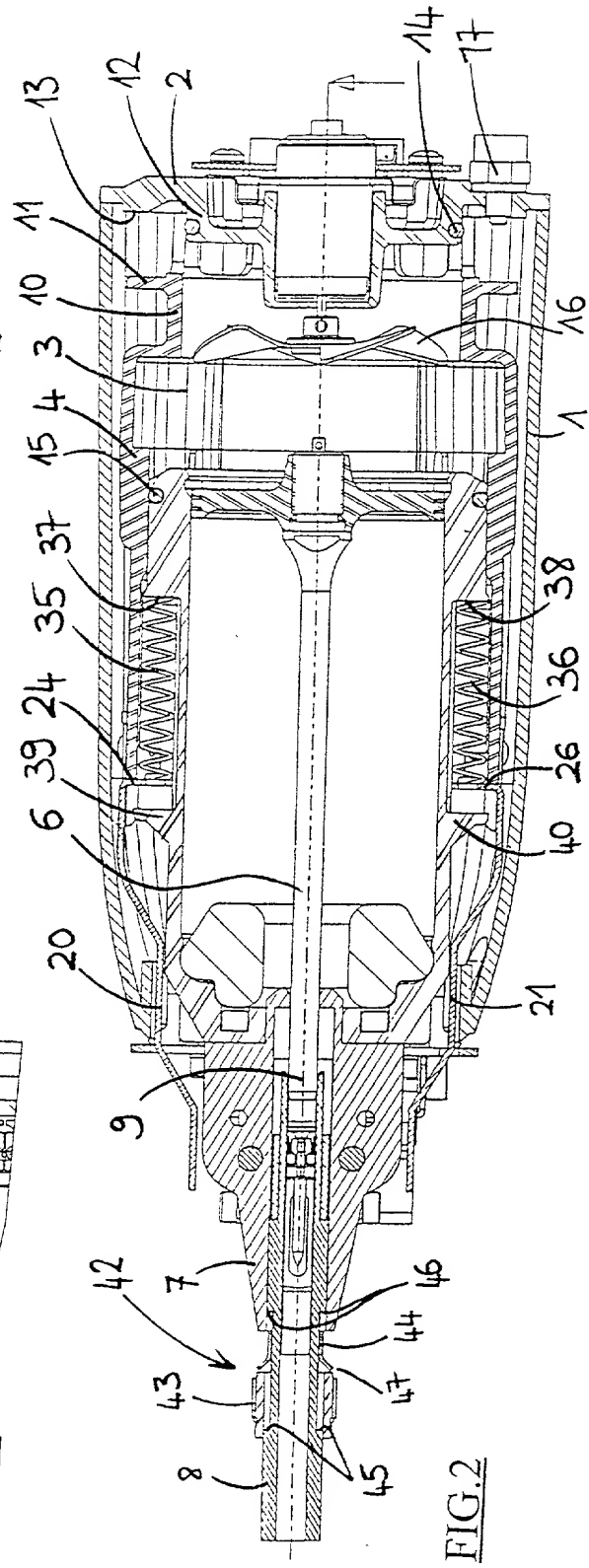
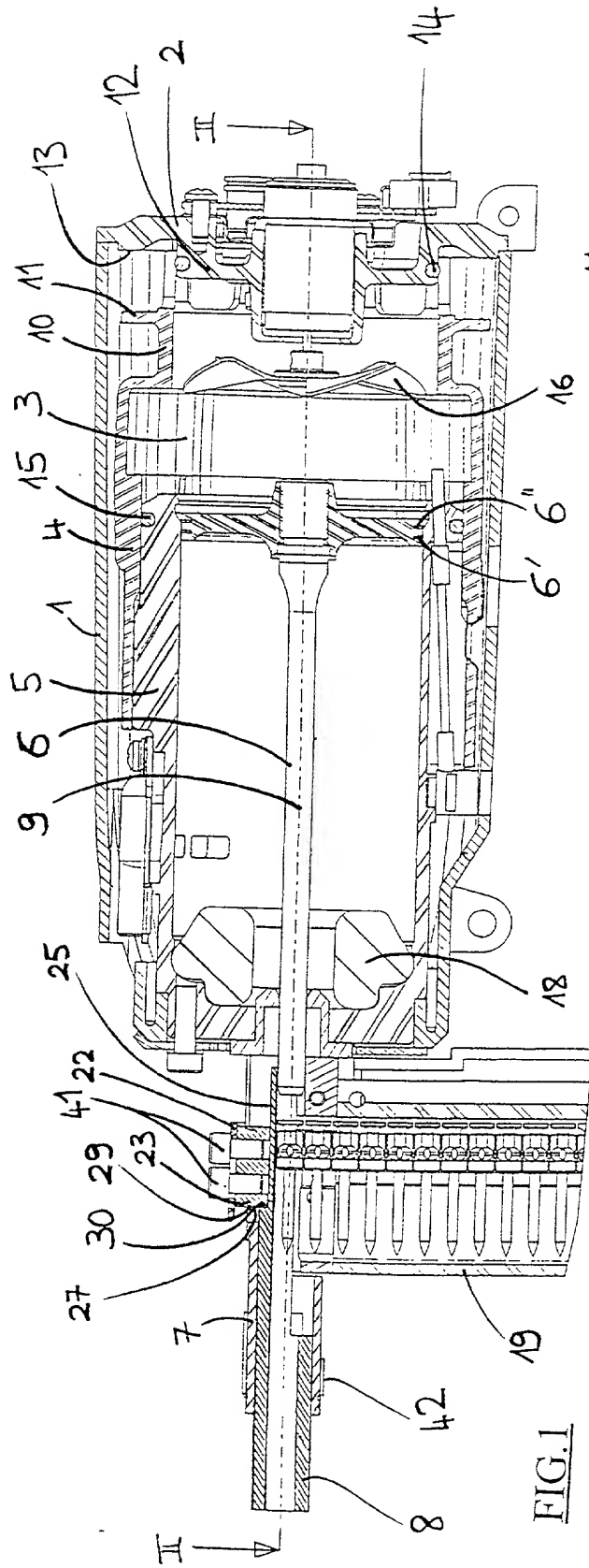
7. Fixing device according to claim 6, wherein the return means (35, 36) are in abutment at the rear against the cylinder (5) and are arranged to cooperate at the front with at least one finger (24, 26) fixedly attached to the driving means in order to return the sleeve (4) to the front when the device is removed from abutment after firing.

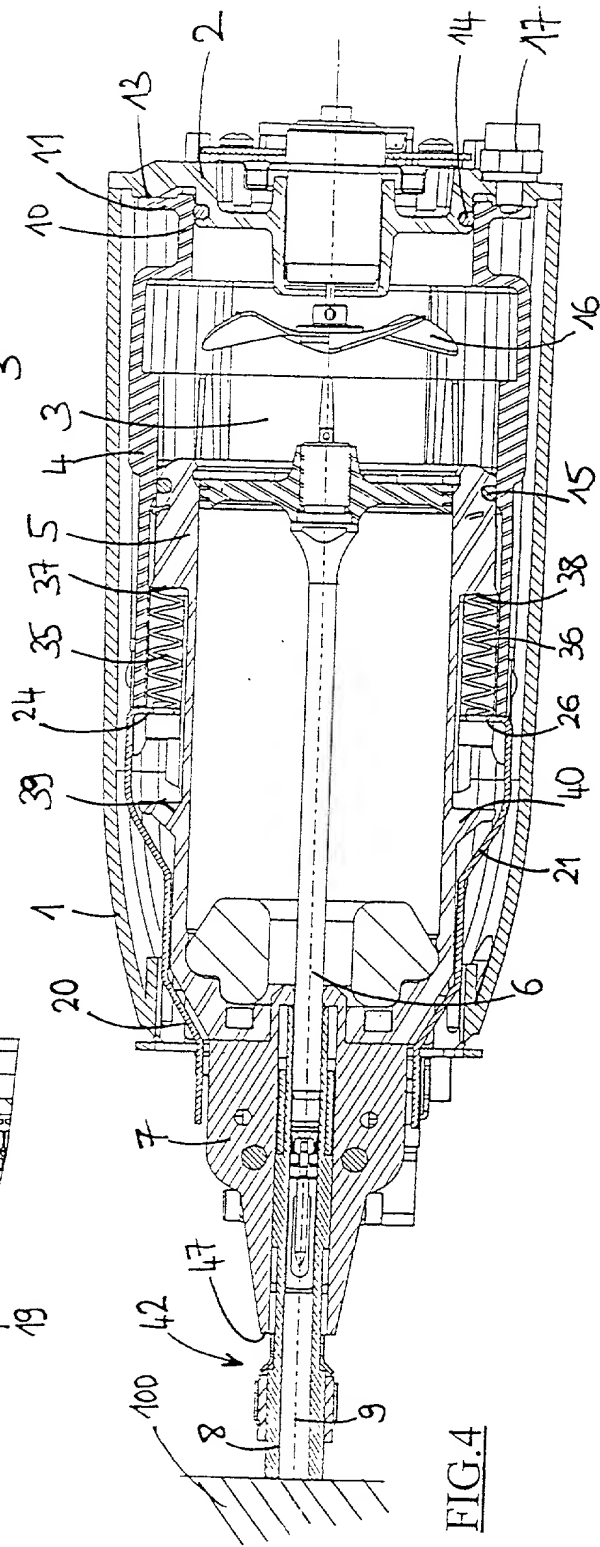
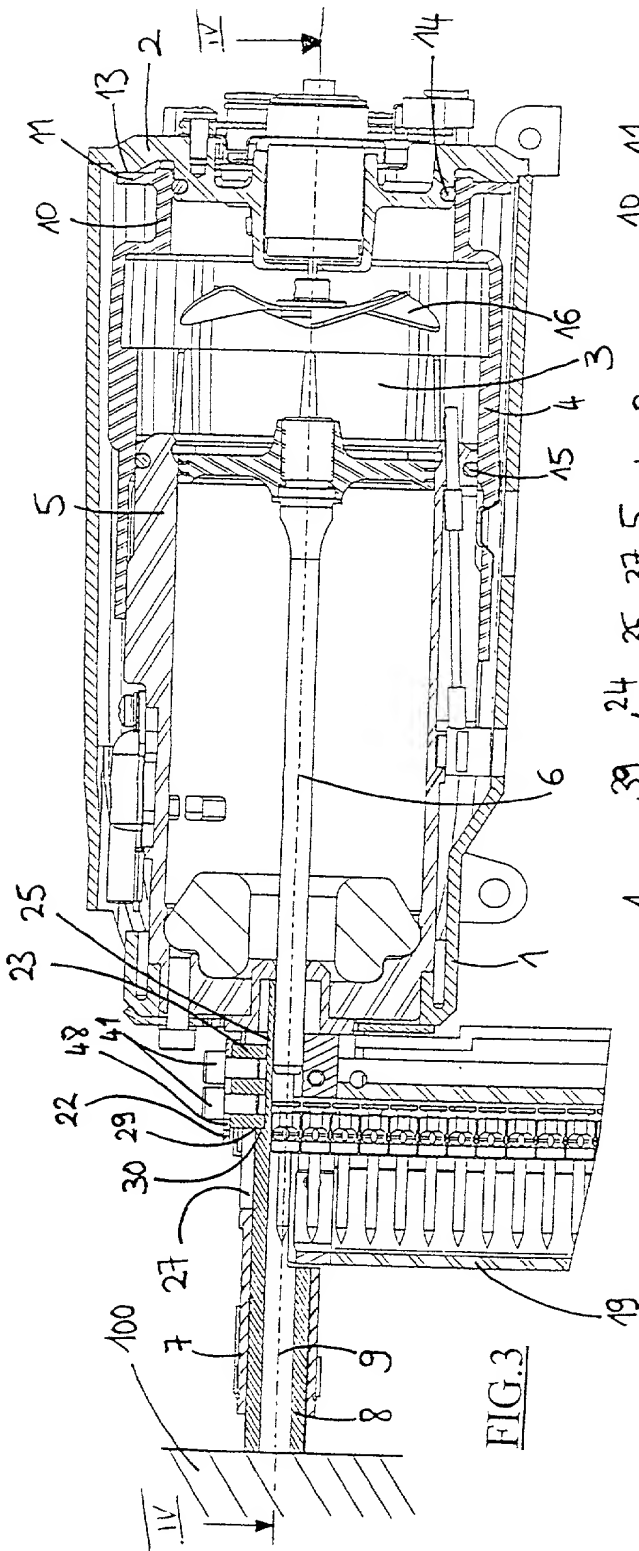
ABSTRACT

FIXING DEVICE WITH A PISTON PROPELLED BY COMPRESSED GAS

The device for fixing a plug in a support (100), with a piston (6) propelled by compressed gas, comprises a cylinder (5) in which the piston (6) is mounted, a combustion chamber (3), a combustion chamber sleeve (4) intended to close the chamber (3) at the rear with a cylinder head (2) and at the front with the piston (6) and the cylinder (5), a plug guide (8) acting as a probe for placing in abutment and for closing the combustion chamber (3). A pushing surface (30) and an abutment surface (29), which are respectively fixedly attached to the plug guide (8) and to the sleeve (4), are arranged to be fixedly attached to each other in a rearward translational movement when the plug guide (8) is placed into abutment, in order to close the combustion chamber (3), and to become detached from each other upon recoil of the device in reaction to firing in order to ensure that the plug guide (8) is kept in abutment against the support (100).

Figure 1





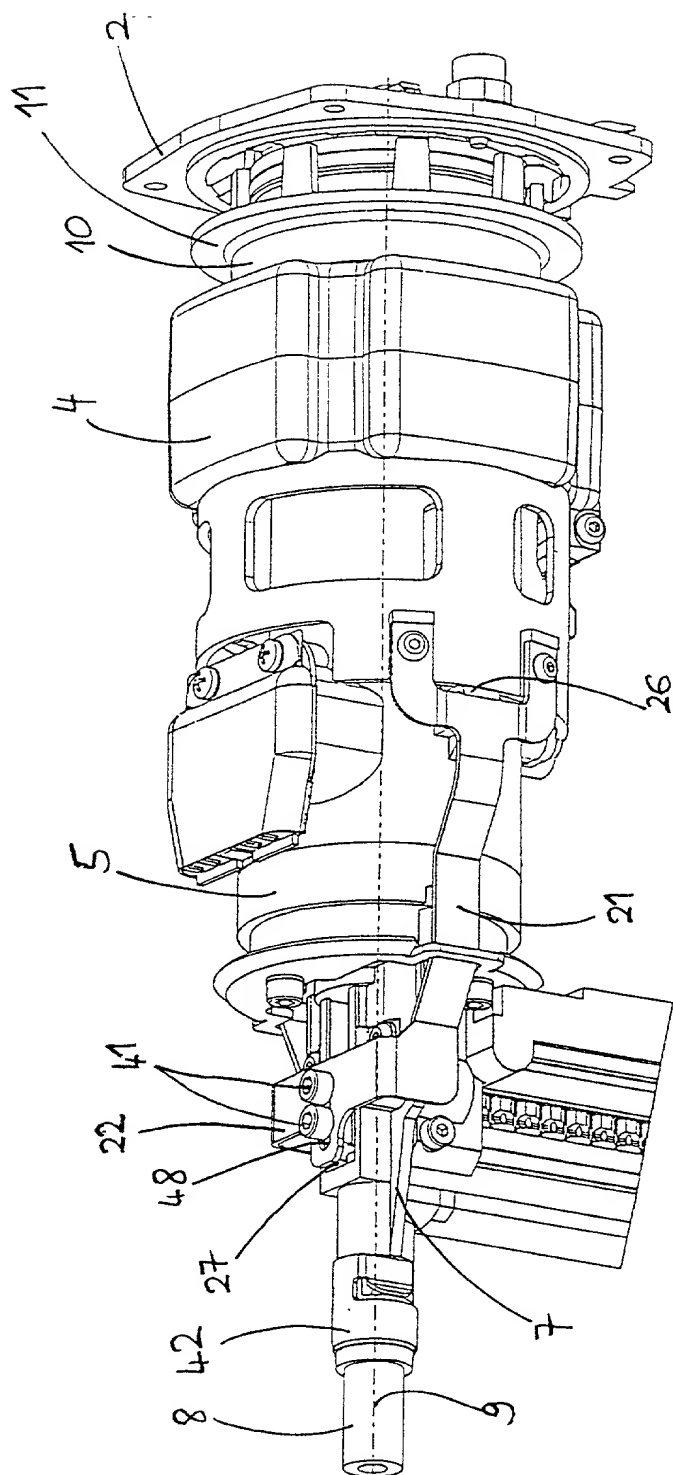


FIG. 5